EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Martin Fleit on 11/06/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 41 (Amended): A method of entering a presentation into a computer, the method comprising the steps of:

a. providing a container delimited by an initial set of container grid lines;

b. providing a set of graphical objects, each graphical object of the set of graphical objects having a set of object grid lines for one of delimiting the graphical object and aligning with important graphical features of the object;

c. selecting the graphical objects of the set of graphical objects one-by-one;

d. placing each selected one graphical object within the container;

e. for an object grid line of the placed selected one graphical object that coincides with an initial container grid line, binding the object grid line to the initial container grid line to establish the spatial constraint that the object line and the initial container grid line have the same position;

f. for an object grid line of the placed selected one graphical object that is not

coincident with a container grid line, generating an additional container line at the

position of the non-coincident object grid line, and binding the non-coincident object grid

line to the generated additional container grid line to create an association between the

non-coincident object grid line and the generated additional container grid line to

establish the spatial constraint that the associated non-coincident object grid line and

the associated generated additional container grid line are coincident and have the

same position;

g. for any ~~repositioning and~~ resizing of a graphical object that involves changing

the position of an object grid line of the graphical object, moving the generated

additional container grid line associated with the object grid line to be changed while

maintaining the coincident binding of the generated associated additional container grid

line and the associated object grid line in order to change the associated object grid line

of the graphical object;

h. correlating the object grid lines of one graphical object to the object grid lines

of another graphical object indirectly through the intermediary of the bound initial

container grid lines and the bound generated additional container grid lines;

i. storing in an hierarchical data structure the binding of the object grid lines of

each graphical object and any associated bound initial container grid lines and

associated bound generated additional container grid lines; and

j. applying a constraint resolution for automatic layout of the graphical objects to

the stored hierarchical data structure and for automatically repositioning and resizing

graphical objects based on the binding of the initial container grid lines and the

generated additional container grid lines associated with the object grid lines of the

graphical object to be moved.

Claim 42: A method according to claim 41 including the further step of providing snap-

to-grid functionality of an object grid line of a graphical object positioned within a

predetermined proximity to one of an initial container grid line and a generated

additional container grid line.[[.]]

Claim 44(Amended): A computer program for entering a presentation into a computer

embodied in a computer readable media for executing the following steps:

    a. displaying on a computer monitor a container delimited by an initial set of

container grid lines;

    b. displaying on said computer monitor a set of graphical objects, each graphical

object of the set of graphical objects having a set of object grid lines for one of delimiting

the graphical object and aligning with important graphical features of the object;

    c. providing a user interface for selecting graphical objects of the set of graphical

objects one-by-one;

    d. displaying on said computer monitor a selected one of the set of graphical

objects by placing the selected one graphical object within the container;

    e. for an object grid line of the placed selected one graphical object that

coincides with an initial container grid line, binding the object grid line to the initial

container grid line to establish the spatial constraint that the object line and the initial

container grid line have the same position;

f. for an object grid line of the placed selected one graphical object that is not

coincident with a container grid line, generating an additional container line at the

position of the non-coincident object grid line, and binding the non-coincident object grid

line to the generated additional container grid line to create an association between the

non-coincident object grid line and the generated additional container grid line to

establish the spatial constraint that the associated non-coincident object grid line and

the associated generated additional container grid line are coincident and have the

same position;

g. for any ~~repositioning and~~ resizing of a graphical object that involves changing

the position of an object grid line of the graphical object, moving the generated

additional container grid line associated with the object grid line to be changed while

maintaining the coincident binding of the generated associated additional container grid

line and the associated object grid line in order to change the associated object grid line

of the graphical object;

h. correlating the object grid lines of one graphical object to the object grid lines

of another graphical object indirectly through the intermediary of the bound initial

container grid lines and the bound generated additional container grid lines;

i. storing in an hierarchical data structure the binding of the object grid lines of

each graphical object and any associated bound initial container grid lines and

associated bound generated additional container grid lines; and

j. applying a constraint resolution for automatic layout of the graphical objects to the stored hierarchical data structure and for automatically repositioning and resizing graphical objects based on the binding of the initial container grid lines and the generated additional container grid lines associated with the object grid lines of the graphical object to be moved.

Claim 47 (Amended): A computer system for entering a presentation into a computer comprising:

a. a processor;

b. means for providing a container delimited by an initial set of container grid lines;

c. means for providing a set of graphical objects, each graphical object of the set of graphical objects having a set of object grid lines for one of delimiting the graphical object and aligning with important graphical features of the object;

d. means for selecting the graphical objects of the set of graphical objects one-by-one;

e. means for placing each selected one graphical object within the container;

f. for an object grid line of the placed selected one graphical object that coincides with an initial container grid line, binding the object grid line to the initial container grid line to establish the spatial constraint that the object line and the initial container grid line have the same position;

g. for an object grid line of the placed selected one graphical object that is not coincident with a container grid line, generating an additional container line at the position of the non-coincident object grid line, and binding the non-coincident object grid line to the generated additional container grid line to create an association between the non-coincident object grid line and the generated additional container grid line to establish the spatial constraint that the associated non-coincident object grid line and the associated generated additional container grid line are coincident and have the same position;

h. for any ~~repositioning and~~ resizing of a graphical object that involves changing the position of an object grid line of the graphical object, moving the generated additional container grid line associated with the object grid line to be changed while maintaining the coincident binding of the generated associated additional container grid line and the associated object grid line in order to change the associated object grid line of the graphical object;

i. means for correlating the object grid lines of one graphical object to the object grid lines of another graphical object indirectly through the intermediary of the bound initial container grid lines and the bound generated additional container grid lines;

j. means <u>for</u> storing in an hierarchical data structure the binding of the object grid lines of each graphical object and any associated bound initial container grid lines and associated bound generated additional container grid lines; and

k. means for applying a constraint resolution for automatic layout of the graphical objects to the stored hierarchical data structure and for automatically repositioning and

resizing graphical objects based on the binding of the initial container grid lines and the generated additional container grid lines associated with the object grid lines of the graphical object to be moved.

Reasons for Allowance

5.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The repositioning term included in limitation g has been removed to overcome an enablement rejection in view of the specification. The specification includes support for resizing of a graphical object and moving the additional container grid lines, but does not mention moving the additional container grid line during a repositioning operation.

The system claim (Claim 47) has been amended to overcome a 35 USC 101 rejection for non-statutory subject matter. A processor is included in the specification, and has been added to the claim language to add a statutory element to the system.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Mullen et al. (US 7,093,192);

    b. Buxton et al (US 5,798,752);

    c. Bier et al. (US 5,617,114);

    d. Balsiger (US 7,287,241).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to OMAR ABDUL-ALI whose telephone number is

(571)270-1694. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri(Alternate Fridays

Off) 8:30 - 6:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on 571-272-4124. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

OAA   /Stephen S. Hong/
11/09/2008   Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
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